

Constituency Committee - Wirral South**Thursday, 4 October 2018**

REPORT TITLE:	Wirral South Priority Update
REPORT OF:	Director for Health and Wellbeing

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the Constituency Committee's priorities for 2018/19.

The work of Wirral South Constituency Committee contributes to a range of Wirral Plan 2020 pledges and neighbourhood working is key to delivery of the Plan.

This report affects all Wards within the Wirral South Constituency (Bebington, Bromborough, Clatterbridge, Eastham and Heswall).

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that this committee

- 1) Allocate £15,000 to the 'Connecting Wirral South - Social Isolation Fund'
- 2) Begin the process to re-commission the Wirral South Youth Counselling Service to ensure the service continues at the end of the current service level agreement period, ending on 30 April 2019
- 3) Agree to allocate the Improved Open Spaces funding of £15,000 to the ward of Clatterbridge for 2018/19. Specifically supporting the recreation area known locally as "The Chase"

4) Allocate the indicative amounts of £6,000 towards six Environmental Action Days across the Constituency and £12,800 towards the Wirral South Love Where You Live small grants fund

5) The Committee allocates £5,000 to complete the Love Where You Live Dog Fouling initiative

6) The committee spends the remaining £1,100 anti-social behaviour funding on diversionary activities during the "Mischief/Bonfire" period at the end of October/beginning of November 2018. The funding should be administered via the longstanding, multi-agency Operation Banger meetings, led by Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service and Merseyside Police

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

1.1 To enable the work of the Wirral South Constituency Committee to be focussed upon the agreed priorities and spend to be distributed accordingly.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

2.1 Learning has been taken from this committee's spend throughout its operation.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 Budget Position

The following table outlines the current budget picture for the Wirral South Constituency Committee, as of August 2018. Progress is being made to spend against all budget lines.

Table One: Current Budget Picture 2018/19

Wirral South Current Budgetary Picture 2018/19		
Priority/Theme	Allocation for 2018/19	Current Total
Historic Ward by Ward Allocation (carried over)	£0	£23,568
Improved Open Spaces	£15,000	£21,100
Social Isolation	£15,000	£16,500
Gaps in Youth Provision	£15,000	£26,700
General Engagement	£5,000	£11,600
Operational Expenses	£0	£1,100
Anti-Social Behaviour	£0	£1,100
Love Wirral	£0	£9,346
Clean Up (17/18 and 18/19 allocation released this year)	£12,500	£23,800
Torr Park 106	£0	£30,378

3.2 Social Isolation

3.2.1 Connecting Wirral South - Social Isolation Grants Fund

Following confirmation of the 2018/19 budget it is suggested that the committee allocate relevant funding to their previously chosen priorities. This includes £15,000 allocation to tackle social isolation in Wirral South. It is

proposed that the committee allocate £15,000 to the 'Connecting Wirral South Social Isolation Fund'.

This fund would allow community, voluntary and faith groups to apply for up to £3,000 each to address social isolation in Wirral South. Specific terms and conditions are yet to be developed (should the committee agree the relevant recommendation) but agreement to progress would see the fund open before the end of November 2018 and remain open until the end of January 2019 (to maximise applications). Applications will be assessed by a panel of elected members, supported by the constituency manager, delegated decisions made by said panel and reported back to committee in March 2019.

The proposed approach ensures that successful applicants can receive payment and begin delivery as soon as possible in 2019. A full evaluation process will take place at the end of the funding period; successful applicants will have until the end of January 2020 to spend the money (see recommendation one).

3.2.2 Eastham Connects

The 'Eastham Connects' initiative continues to develop with a summer event held in Torr Park on Saturday the 11th of August. The event was well attended drawing both new and existing users into the park and providing access to local community partners within the setting of a fun, inclusive and family friendly event. Among other attractions residents took part in drumming sessions with Rhythm Reacts, had health checks carried out by The Stroke Society and found out more about what was on offer in their local community from various local organisations. More detail on this event is contained within the Community Representatives report (agenda item 8).

3.2.3 Christmas Together 2018

The Wirral South 'Christmas Together' initiative will once again be supporting local organisations in their bid to ensure loneliness at Christmas is minimised across the five wards. The Wirral South Engagement Officer will work with a

number of local groups to support their ongoing initiatives with small amounts of funding to ensure the impact of their events are maximised.

3.3 Gaps in Youth Provision (retender and cost benefit analysis data)

3.3.1 In the first quarter of the final year's service (May, June and July of 2018) 14 unique young people accessed therapeutic counselling (2 males and 12 females), 8 new young people used the 'drop-in' at Bebington Youth Club (New Ferry) and Eastham Youth Hub (mixed).

Table Two: Unique Service Users by Location

Area	Counselling Attended drop in so far	Waiting to be seen	Counselling ended	
Heswall	2 drop-in	0	2	No
Bebington	2 9	5	3	
Eastham	3 8	5	2	

3.3.2 The Wirral South Youth Counselling Service is currently in the final year of the existing agreement with the incumbent provider; Response. On 30 April 2019 the service will have reached its maximum duration of three years. In order to ensure this valued service continues and given the ongoing uncertainty surrounding future budget allocation to this committee it is proposed that the constituency manager begins the process of re-commissioning the service on a year by year basis, up to a maximum duration of three years. The current budget allocation of £15,000 for 2018/19 will be used to secure the first year's delivery (see recommendation .two).

3.4 Improved Open Spaces

3.4.1 On Thursday 9 August 2018 the 'Wirral South Improved Open Spaces Task and Finish Group' reconvened to discuss the allocation of the 2018/19 budget of £15,000 (brief notes are contained in appendix one). Previous approach to allocation had ensured that each year a new ward was allocated the funding and it was agreed that in 2018/19 it was the turn of Clatterbridge. Members of the task and finish group agreed that the recreation area known locally as "The Chase" should be the priority location for this spend. Elected members for Clatterbridge have been in discussions with a group of interested residents recently. At the time of writing this report; site visits have taken place and meetings with elected members and local residents have been planned. It is hoped that progress will be made and a verbal update will be given to this committee during the next committee in October (see recommendation 3).

3.4.2 Torr Park

Work continues to agree a suite of improvement works at this location and at the time of writing this report a further meeting with the locally driven Advisory Board is scheduled for September 27, 2018. It is hoped that a full verbal update will be possible on October 4, detailing all allocated spend and giving realistic timelines for installation.

3.4.3 New Ferry Park

A final works plan, detailing proposed improvement works, is currently being developed between the Wirral South Engagement Officer, The New Ferry Park Advisory Board and colleagues from Wirral's Parks and Countryside Team. It is hoped that a full verbal update will be possible on October 4, detailing all allocated spend and giving realistic timelines for installation.

3.5 Wirral South Clean Up Funding

It is proposed that funding is allocated to fund targeted environmental activity within local communities, through both 'Environmental Action Days' and a small grants programme for environmental improvements by local

community, voluntary and faith groups. The suggested process for this is outlined below.

3.5.1 Environmental Action Days

It is proposed that the Constituency Engagement Officer co-ordinates an 'Environmental Action Day' within each of the Constituency's five wards in or around the Spring of 2019, in a location identified by elected members. Due to historic issues over the Mischief/Bonfire Night period, it is proposed that an earlier Environmental Action Day takes place in New Ferry (the location identified by colleagues within the Fire Service as Wirral South's "Hot-Spot") in late October/early November specifically to help reduce the amount of flammable material in this location during this time. The operation on the 'days' will be similar to the 'Respect Action Days' previously co-ordinated by the Anti-Social Behaviour Team and the 'Blitz Days' currently conducted in Birkenhead Constituency. Each day will see the co-ordination of multi-agency and community activity to tackle environmental and quality of life issues.

Key partners will likely include, where applicable, Merseyside Police; Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service; Biffa; Community Action Wirral; Community Connectors; 'Community Payback' (Probation); Registered Providers of Social Housing (Housing Associations), plus internal services including the Commercial Management team; Environmental Enforcement; Environmental Health; Parks & Countryside; Private Sector Housing; Public Health; Streetscene; Waste & Recycling; Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team and Youth Support Service. The activity will be co-ordinated with the local community and community groups, organisations and businesses will be encouraged to participate and work will be undertaken with them in advance of the scheduled day.

Each Environmental Action Day will be focused upon:

- undertaking clean up activity;
- making small environmental improvements;
- engaging with local residents;
- preventative work (e.g. educational and awareness activity, fire safety checks, etc.);

- developing an action plan to address issues that are unable to be resolved on the day.

The costs incurred for each Environmental Action Day are likely to include, where applicable, resources and materials (e.g. paint, flowers, etc.), wheelie bin amnesty, skip hire, printing (leaflets) and refreshments for volunteers. An indicative cost for each day is up to £1,000 (see recommendation four).

3.5.2 'Love Where You Live' Fund

It is proposed that the Wirral South Constituency Committee's 'Love Where You Live' Fund is launched week commencing 8 October 2018. This will be open to community, voluntary and faith groups to apply for funding of no more than £500 to make environmental improvements to any outdoor areas to which the general public has access. The closing date for bids (typed) will be Monday 10 December 2018, allowing around eight weeks for applications. An assessment of bids, based on the contents of the application form, will be undertaken by the Love Where You Live Task and Finish Group, supported by the Constituency Manager. Delegated decision will be made on allocation and the outcome reported to the next available Constituency Committee 6 March 2019. This approach will ensure that payments can be made to successful applicants as soon as possible, allowing them to plan accordingly for their project. Projects will be required to be completed and a short typed evaluation report (with receipts) submitted to the Constituency Team by Friday 20th December 2019.

A comprehensive application process will be developed, should the committee agree the recommendation. Specific details are to be confirmed during that process but indicative approach includes:

- Groups may only apply for one project
- Funding will not be permitted for core staff salaries and/or core administration costs.
- Applicants must demonstrate that their project will have a visible positive impact on an outdoor space; this may include (but not exclusively)

repainting benches and railings, clearing and planting, creating and installing artwork, for example (see recommendation four).

3.5.3 The ongoing Love Where You Live work focussing on providing more bins and bag dispensers to address dog fouling continues. Various partners have been established among the various “Friends” groups previously supported by this committee (see recommendation five).

3.6 Remaining Anti-Social Behaviour Funding

The Wirral South Constituency Committee currently holds £1,100 (carried over from previous years) to address anti-social behaviour across the five wards. It is proposed that this funding is spent throughout the “Mischief/Bonfire Night” period (end of October/start of November 2018) on diversionary activities for young people. The proposal suggests that the money should be allocated via the joint agency ‘Operation Banger’ meetings which take place each year to plan for said period. A full report of what the amount was spent on and its perceived impact will be given to the next committee in March 2019 (see recommendation six).

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 This report has implications for the expenditure of budget allocated to Wirral South Constituency Committee.

4.2 Regular budget monitoring with Business Services takes place to ensure that the expenditure incurred is accurate and complies with what has been agreed by the Committee.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The arrangements help the Council to deliver on the Localism Act 2011 and Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

6.1 Funding available may assist in greater use of and/or access to community assets.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 Failure to agree the distribution of funding limits the Committee's ability to effectively tackle its priorities and may result in a loss of funding allocation.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 Elected members, community representatives and members of the public have the opportunity to participate in all Constituency Committees.

8.2 The neighbourhood working model strengthens the Council's relationship with the voluntary, community and faith sector.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments/equality-impact-assessments-2010-14/chief>

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APPENDICES

Appendix One: Wirral South Improved Open Spaces Task & Finish Group, Thursday 9th August 2018

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date



Wirral South Improved Open Spaces Task & Finish Group

Date: Thursday 9th August 2018

Time: 18:00

Venue: Pennant House

Contact Officer: Fergus Adams

Tel: 0151 666 3074

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Minutes

In Attendance:

Cllr I Williams
Cllr C Povall
Cllr C Muspratt
Cllr P Gilchrist
F Adams

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr L Rowlands

2. BRIEF SUMMARY OF CURRENT BUDGET POSITION

F Adams confirmed that the £50k core budget for 2018/19 has been confirmed and released. In line with previous allocations this would be split (subject to approval at committee):

- £15k Improved Open Spaces
- £15k Gaps in Youth Provision
- £15k Social Isolation
- £5k General Engagement

3. PROPOSALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OCTOBER COMMITTEE

- 3.1 Members of the task and finish group agreed that in line with previous approach it was the turn of Clatterbridge ward to receive the £15k Improved Open Spaces funding.
- 3.2 Members of the task and finish group agreed that the recreation area known locally as “The Chase” should be the priority location for this spend. Elected members for Clatterbridge have been in discussions with a group of interested residents recently and it is hoped that progress will be made prior to the next committee in October.
- 3.3. Associated recommendations for The Wirral South Constituency Committee on the 4th of October 2018:

Note the decision of the Wirral South Improved Open Spaces Task & Finish Group to allocate the currently available, 2018/19 allocation of £15k for Improved Open Spaces to the electoral ward of Clatterbridge

Note the decision of the Wirral South Improved Open Spaces Task & Finish Group that the specific open space to be supported within the electoral ward of Clatterbridge in 2018/19 is the area known locally as “The Chase”

Action	Owner	Task
Mar1	FA	Draw up list of proposals and share with members of the task and finish group, asking for comments and suggestions with a view to producing a list of agreed locations and partners for implementation of bins and dispensers.
Mar2	All	To reply to request for potential locations for bins and dispensers ASAP